

**AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS*****In the Claims:***

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 24, and 25 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of each claim is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) A gas opening/closing pin which opens and closes a gas inlet and outlet formed in a pipe holder which seals one end portion of a cylinder and allows a change in a ~~moves the~~ position of a piston in the cylinder, comprising:

at least one streamlined recess portion which opens the gas inlet and outlet formed on a side of ~~the~~ an outer peripheral surface of ~~the~~ a central portion of the gas opening/closing pin; and  
an integrally formed washer-shaped boss body portion formed at a lower end of the opening/closing pin,

wherein the at least one streamlined recessed portion does not extend about ~~the~~ an entire outer periphery of the central portion.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A gas/opening closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the gas opening/closing pin is made of a metal.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A gas/opening closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the gas opening/closing pin is made of a non-metal.

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8.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A gas/opening closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the at least one streamlined recessed portion comprises a plurality of streamlined-shaped recesses.

12.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the at least one streamlined recess portion has an entirely closed circumference defined by a non-recessed portion of the outer peripheral surface.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A gas opening/closing pin, comprising:

a pin body adapted to open and close a gas inlet of a pipe holder which seals one end portion of a cylinder and allows a change in a ~~in-moves-the~~ position of a piston in the cylinder, the pin body having one or more longitudinal inwardly continuously contoured troughs formed in a side outer surface thereof, the one or more longitudinal inwardly continuously contoured troughs do not extend continuously about ~~the~~ an entire outer periphery of the central portion; and

a catch feature defined as an integral washer-shaped boss formed on one end of the pin body.

25. (Currently Amended) A height-regulating apparatus, comprising:

an outer case;

a tube guide mounted along ~~the~~ an interior of the outer case; and

a spindle mounted within the tube guide, the spindle including:

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a cylinder;

a piston sealingly mounted within the cylinder for movement along the cylinder,  
the piston dividing the cylinder into two chambers;

a pipe holder having a fluid inlet; and

a gas opening/closing pin mounted in the fluid inlet and adapted to prevent ~~the~~ a  
flow of pressurized fluid between the two chambers when in first positions and allow the  
flow of pressurized fluid between the two chambers when in second positions, the gas  
opening/closing pin including:

a pin body having one or more longitudinal inwardly continuously contoured  
troughs formed in a side outer surface thereof, the one or more longitudinal inwardly  
continuously contoured troughs do not extend continuously about the entire outer  
periphery of ~~the~~ a central portion; and

a catch feature defined as an integral washer-shaped boss formed on one end of  
the pin body.